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Student-Written One Act Plays: Human at Heart & Heavenly Match Program

University of Southern Maine Department of Theatre

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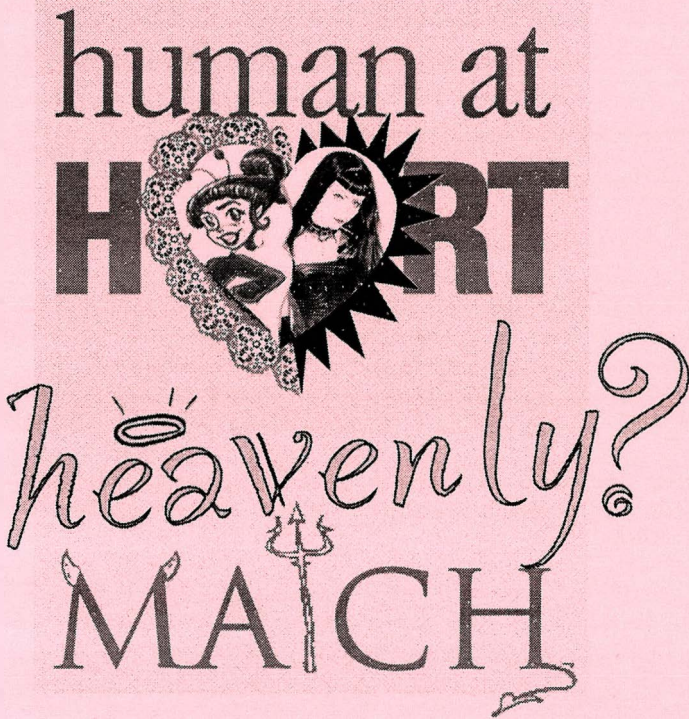
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UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN MAINE

Department of Theatre presents

The Student-Written One Act Plays



Human at Heart by Stacy Ann Strang
Heavenly? Match by Jack Fossett

February 15- 17, 2007, 7:30 p.m.

February 18, 2007, 5:00 p.m.

Main Stage, Russell Hall

USM Gorham Campus

Human at Heart

by Stacy Ann Strang

&

Heavenly? Match

by Jack Fossett

Director
Set Design
Costume Design
Lighting Design
Sound Design

Dr. Assunta Kent
Charles S. Kading
Kris Hall
Nick Cyr
Michele Lee

Cast in Order of Appearance

Human at Heart by Stacy Ann Strang

Pinky
Hot Line Worker
Georgia

Jessica Dummich
Michol Lynne Merrill
Casey Turner

Heavenly? Match by Jack Fossett

Jenny
Guy
Magdalen
Judas
Casey
Dan
Old Man
Businessman

Autumn Rose
Joe Bearor
Nadia Soliman
Travis Curran
Michol Lynne Merrill
Nate Speckman
Gary Thayer
Gary Thayer

There will be a fifteen minute intermission between plays.

Warning: fog and food aromas

*Please, no recording devices are allowed during the performance.
Also please turn off beepers and phones as a courtesy to the actors
and other audience members.*

Language and themes rated PG-13.

Special Thanks to:

Accent Dry Cleaners

Kameren David Aikins for Judas' cane and many of Pinky's toys,
Starbucks

Human at Heart and **Heavenly? Match** are entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Michael Kanin Playwriting Awards Program and are being considered for the John Cauble Short Play Award and the David Mark Cohen National Playwriting Award.

Messages from the Playwrights

Jack Fossett ~ *Heavenly? Match*

I have found in my life that it is important to have a sense of humor about things. This is not just because laughing is fantastically freakin' fun, but also because I think it is a necessity in our stressful lives to ensure that we all don't totally lose it. It is for this reason that I chose to take a satiric look at religion-- an aspect of the world that has unfortunately and inadvertently (or at least I'd like to think) brought as much pain and suffering as it has joy and enlightenment.

Heavenly? Match is not intended to offend those who have strict beliefs, but rather to challenge their unwavering 'no fun policy' in regard to something that many will still kill for, without question. If more of us were able to step back and laugh at these beliefs, peace might not be such an impossible dream.

Stacy Ann Strang ~ *Human at Heart*

I wrote *Human at Heart* about a year ago as a ten-minute play for my playwriting class. I actually took the course by accident; I needed a last-minute "filler" class, but I came to realize that I really enjoyed it.

I've always been disheartened that there are so few readily available comedic roles for women; on the whole, men tend to get the long end of the stick with comedies. So I wrote roles that I would want to play: silly roles with strange characters, almost a modern day *Odd Couple* with a twist. Pinky actually comes from a character that I use in my improv and Goths have always fascinated me. The Phone Sex Lady grew out of a comment I received in a class when I was referred to as "sensual, yet awkward." I wanted to create a character from that phrase. This is a fun show-- though there are meaningful undertones--the main objective should be to enjoy yourself!

Director's Note

I select plays I enjoy reading and that have themes I can put my heart and energy into - and then I do as little to the actual texts as possible. Perhaps it is my training as a dramaturg, (the production researcher and Defender of the Text in "high-concept" shows). In any case, I enjoy the challenge of bringing to life what the playwright has written. With USM's *SOAPs*, because the playwrights are an integral part of the process, I am able to flesh out and bring to our audiences things the playwrights may have only implied or imagined.

Along with new plays and playwrights, I also like to showcase new actors and designers. Here I get to use my expertise as a life coach and drama critic to create (or re-create) the interactions between humans (and aliens?) and their environments-- in collaboration with the fresh instincts, observations and ideas of our students.

It is this alchemical reaction between our different experiences and points of view that creates the magic we hope to share with you!

Biographies

Joe Bearor ~ Guy

Joe Bearor, from Bangor, is a freshman theatre major with a focus on acting. Originally from Bangor, Joe has played "Royce" in Winterport Open Stage's *Dearly Departed* and "Fagin" in Bangor High School's production of *Oliver!* Most recently he played "Kazim" in S.P.A.'s adaptation of Ariel Dorfman's *Death and the Maiden*, set in Iraq.

Heather Crocker ~ Stage Manager

Heather hails from Dayton, and is a senior theatre major with a focus in stage management and light design. Her past credits include stage managing *Dance USM!* '04 (USM Mainstage), *Arms and the Man* (USM Mainstage), *Playboy of the Western World* (AIRE), *A Christmas in Kerry* (AIRE), *Purple Breasts* (Two Lights Theatre Ensemble) and assistant stage managing *November/December* (USM St Lawrence). Two of her light designs appear in this fall's *Dance USM!* and she will be the assistant light designer for USM's upcoming production of *The Mandrake*.

Travis H. Curran ~ Judas

Travis H. Curran is a junior theatre major from the Oxford Hills region. He sound designed *A Servant of Two Masters* (F '06) and will be sound designing SPA's *Beyond Therapy* later this spring. You may have seen him on stage last year in SPA's production of *Under Milkwood*, or several years before on the mainstage in *Lysistrata*. Travis also helped write and direct several productions for Camp Wigwam's summer theatre program. He'd like to thank his parents for no real reason, Assunta for the moustache, the crew and his fellow cast members for their aptitude, tolerance, perseverance, general good looks and one heck of a good time.

Nick Cyr ~ Lighting Design

Nick is a junior theatre major who hails from Bangor. He was last seen on stage as "Jack" in SPA's 2006 production of *A Night with David Ives*. He was the assistant lighting designer for USM's 2006 production of *Equus*, and also designed for *Dance USM!*, this past fall. He is very excited for this opportunity to design on the Main Stage, and would like to thank his family and friends for their continued support.

Jessica Dummich ~ Pinky

Jessica, from Winthrop, is sophomore nursing major and a theatre minor, though theatre is her greatest passion. Last year she was seen in a SPA production of *Under Milkwood* and was also an assistant stage manager. You may have noticed her as "Waiter 2" in *The Servant of Two Masters*. She would like to thank the cast and crew for all of their hard work! And yes, her favorite color actually is pink.

Jack Fossett ~ Playwright (*Heavenly? Match*)

Jack is a senior at USM focusing on creative writing. He has acted frequently at USM, including Main Stage roles as "Cpt. Bluntschli" in *Arms and the Man* (F '05), "Nathan" in *Layers of Love* (S '06), as "Puck" in SPA's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and several other roles at theatres around Southern Maine. While he has done theatre intensely for the past few years, his primary interest is in playing electric guitar for various bands around New England, including Manchester, Concord, and Boston. Jack is excited to have his one-act produced, and is currently writing and revising other theatrical fandangos. He would like to thank his family, friends and superb cast for helping his play take on a life of its own.

Cate Goetschius ~ Hair and Make-up Design

Cate, originally from Essex, Vermont, is a fourth year student at USM majoring in theatre and musical theatre. Her past hair and makeup design credits include SPA's *A Night with David Ives* and *Under Milkwood*, the Boothbay Playhouse's *Into the Woods*, and USM's and *Servant of Two Masters* and *Arms and the Man*, for which she won the Mehron Makeup Award for Excellence in Design for her region last spring, and attended the National Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival in Washington D.C.

Daniel H. Goldstein ~ Assistant Director

Daniel is a senior theatre major from Nashua, NH focusing on directing. He assistant directed last year's *SOAP's* also, and is currently at work writing and producing a show of his own. His recent acting roles include "Dalton" in *Equus* last Fall and "Dan/Electrician" in *Six Characters in Search of an Author* in Fall 2004, both at USM.

Kris Hall ~ Costume Design

Kris has returned for her sixth season as the costume shop supervisor after a summer in residence at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. Some of her previous design credits include *Pump Boys and Dinettes* at Maine State Music Theatre, *The Nerd and Woman in Black* at the Public Theatre in Lewiston, *Ghosting* and *Baltimore Waltz* at USM and the feature length independent film *Mr. Barrington*. Her sewing and design work has appeared on the TV show *While You Were Out*, as part of the Half Mood Jug Band set and on the stage at Merrill Auditorium. Kris received her BA from USM and her MFA in Studio Art from Maine College of Art. Special thanks to artist Bennett Morris for permission to quote his work in the fabric painting featured on the character "Judas" in *Heavenly? Match*.

Charles S. Kading ~ Scenic Design

Charles has taught design and stagecraft at USM for 26 years. His professional credits include *Titanic*, *Hans Christian Andersen*, *Ragtime*, and *Scarlet Pimpernel* for Maine State Music Theatre; *Big*

River, My Fair Lady, She Loves Me, Cabaret, and *Annie* for Philadelphia's Walnut Street Theater; *Noises Off!* and *Blithe Spirit* at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival. He worked extensively at The Alley Theater in Houston where his credits include the US premiere of Alan Ayckbourne's *Henceforward*. Charles has also designed scenery for the Seattle Repertory Theatre, Intiman Theatre, Cabaret Repertory Theatre and Portland Stage. He is currently chair of the Theatre Department.

Dr. Assunta Kent ~ Director

Brightening the winter season with fresh new student-written comedies is so rewarding, that Dr. Kent directs the '07 *SOAPs* (Student-written One Act Plays) in a return engagement. Over the past 12 years, she has directed both contemporary and classical plays at USM, including *Power: A Living Newspaper* for last year's conference on Frances Perkins and the Works Progress Administration, *SOAPs 06, A Dream of Canaries, The Marriage of Figaro, The Rokujo Lady's Passion, The Danube, Sinners, Saints and Fools, Multi-Medi@tion, Life in the Late 20th,* and *Shakuntala and the Ring of Recognition*. She has been supported by two Maine Humanities Grants as a dramaturg. Dr. Kent is also the author of *Maria Irene Fornes and Her Critics* and prefaces for *At Play: An Anthology of Maine Drama*, which includes the award winning *Ugly Ducklings* by Carolyn Gage. Currently, she continues her research on Asian Noh and Sanskrit theatres, highlights of which she will present at the ATHE conference next summer in New Orleans.

Kristin P. Kurz - Production Stage Manager

Kristin is a senior theatre major, concentrating in stage management. Her credits include: The Second Annual Chester Horn Short Play Festival with Theatre Rats (Medicine Show Theatre NY, NY), *Blood Brothers* (USM Main Stage), KCACTF Irene Ryan Competition, *How I Learned To Drive* (USM St. Lawrence), *All My Sons* (Schoolhouse), *November/December* (USM St. Lawrence), USM's Ten Minute Play Festival 2004-2006, *Once On This Island* (USM Black Box), *South Pacific* (Spring Lake Theatre, NJ), and *Servant of Two Masters* (USM). She is the Production Manager for USM's 2006-2007 season. She just received the coveted National Fellowship from KC/ACTF in stage management.

Michele Lee ~ Sound Design

Michele is a junior theatre major from Bridgton, ME. This is Michele's first time sound designing for a Main Stage show; previous work includes assistant scenic design for *Equus* and assistant director for *Blood Brothers*. Michele has also appeared onstage at USM in *Lysistrata* and *The Good, The Bad and The Wilde*, as well as on professional stages around Portland, most recently playing "Rosalind" in *As You Like It* at The Stage at Spring Point.

Michol Lynne Merrill ~ Casey (Heavenly? Match) & Hotline worker (Human at Heart)

Michol is a sophomore theatre major from Winslow, ME. Recent roles and performances include the Maid/Murderer in *Murder by the Book* (F '05) and a corporate "bad guy" in *Power: A Living Newspaper* for the Frances Perkins conference at USM (Sp '06). She is excited to be performing in her first main stage roles at USM.

Autumn Rose ~ Jenny

Autumn is a junior theatre major from Portland. Past USM roles include "Jill" in *Equus* and the "Stepdaughter" in *Six Characters in Search of an Author* on the Main Stage, and "Helena" in SPA's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Lorraine Rudolph ~ Assistant to the Director

Lorraine is a freshman theatre major from Dodgeville, Wisconsin, where she played "a drunken maid" in *The Lucky Stiff*. Then she decided to sharpen her detective skills in Vail, Co, as the undercover cop, Flame Fondue in *Bone Chiller*. She graduated from Battle Mountain High School and moved to Maine with her parents. Like Pinky; Lorraine thinks she may have originated on Glan. They hope you enjoy the show!

Stephanie Smith ~ Rehearsal and Assistant Stage Manager

Steph is a junior theatre major from Portland. While at USM, she has held such positions as deck crew for *The Magic Flute* and *The Good, The Bad and The Wilde*. She has also run the soundboard for the *SOAPs* '06 and recently, the media and video projections for *Equus*. She hopes to be involved with many more productions here at USM.

Nadia Soliman ~ Magdalen

Nadia, from Biddeford, is a freshman in her second term of college theatre and her second time on the USM Main Stage - this time in a speaking role! Previous credits include Onstage Crew in *The Servant of Two Masters*, All-Cast honors for acting and scriptwriting, fine arts and drama awards for her former school and four years with the Biddeford Players.

Nate Speckman ~ Dan

Nate Speckman is a junior theatre major from Cape Elizabeth. Although this is his Main Stage debut for USM, he is no stranger to acting. He has performed all over Maine, in such shows as: *A Christmas Carol* (Portland Stage), *Les Miserables, The King and I, WASP, Power, All American*, and an adaptation of the novel, *Black Snow*. Nate is also a member of the Federal Theatre Players and has been seen onstage with the Blue Man Group. Thanks and love to all who support him including, but not limited to, his family, friends, Jack, Crys and Johnny.

Stacy Ann Strang ~ *Playwright (Human at Heart)*

Stacy is a senior theatre major from Livermore with a focus in performance. This is Stacy's first attempt at playwriting. She took Dr. Walter Stump's playwriting course for the extra credit and discovered that she enjoyed the class and playwriting. You may also recognize Stacy as: "Smeraldina" in *Servant of Two Masters* (Irene Ryan Nomination) as well as *November/December* and *The Laramie Project* (USM Mainstage), "Beth" in *Purple Breasts* (Two Lights Theatre Ensemble), and "Polly Garter" in *Under Milkwood* (USM SPA) among others. Look for Stacy on www.soapnet.com as she is currently a finalist in a competition to win her own series.

Gary A. Thayer ~ *Old Man/Young Man*

Gary A. Thayer, from Newcastle, is a 4th year student here at USM. Since transferring from the University of Maine in Farmington, this is his second performance; he played one of the "horses" in *Equus*.

Casey Turner ~ *Georgia*

Casey Turner is back on the USM Main Stage for the second time this season in the original production *Human at Heart*. You might have seen her in *Equus* as "the horse in the back." She's come a long way since she started her theater apprenticeship five years ago at the Oddfellow Theater in her home town of Buckfield.

Artistic Staff

Assistant Director
Assistant to the Director
Set Dressing Designs for *Human*

Daniel H. Goldstein
Lorraine Rudolph
Gwen Tatro

Production Staff

Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Managers
Technical Director
Carpenters
Costume Director
Costume Buyer
Stitchers

Heather Crocker
Stephanie Smith, Robert Trask
Matt Meeds
Stagecraft Practicum Class
Kris Hall
Kate Law
Caitlin Ballou, Mary Bastoni, Emily Carter, Joelle
Clingerman, Gabrielle Cyr, Jessica Dummich, Nicole
Etieh-Wood, Cate Goetschius, Slaney Jordan, Kate Law,
Desiray Roy, Gwen Tatro, Hillary Sproul and Costume Practicum
Bobby Wilcox
Lighting Practicum Class
Jessica Savory
Dan Lovely, Ali Berry, Erin Rooney,
Haley O'Connor

Master Electrician
Electricians
Properties Mistress
Properties Construction

Production Crew

Deck Crew
Wardrobe
Light Board Operator
Sound Board Operator
Props Crew

Maia Turlo, Alex Kopak, Daniel Gay
Kalla Dow, Jon Rogers, Britney Heatley
Heather Green
Peter White
Tara Haskell, Kathrine Farrar, Shawn Reardon

Administrative Staff

Executive Director, Public Affairs
Arts Events Director
Administrative Assistant
Box Office Manager
House Manager
Graphic Design
Program
Proof Reader

Bob Caswell
Emmanuelle Chaulet
Lil Campbell
Haley O'Connor
Katherine Caramihalis
Jeannine Owens
Linnea Bradshaw
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This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for inclusion at the KCACTF regional festival and can also be considered for invitation to the KCACTF national festival at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC in the spring of 2007.

Last year more than 1,300 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.